



Inter Department Correspondence Sheet

TO: Members of City Council

FROM: Breck Daughtrey, City Clerk

COPIES TO: \_\_\_\_\_

SUBJECT: Minutes of City Council Retreat

October 2, 2015

Attached are the minutes of the City Council Retreat held on Monday, September 21, and Tuesday, September 22, 2015.

Breck

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **SLOVER LIBRARY NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2015**

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 8:35 a.m. with the following members present: Ms. Graves, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, and Mr. Winn.

He asked the City Manager to review the day's agenda. That done, the retreat was kicked off by an update from John Martin, President and CEO of Southeastern Institute of Research.

### **NORFOLK, A YEAR LATER**

Mr. Martin stated today's update is focused on economic development and reported:

- Small businesses create two-thirds of new jobs
- The new model focuses on existing businesses
- An aging population will affect the economy with more workers age 54+
- Young people are important to the local economy and want a variety of employment options, housing options, safety, higher education opportunities, access to water and a creative climate among others
- Companies are moving to urban center for talent recruitment
- Norfolk is doing well in terms of safety (community policing) and neighborhood developments quality affordable housing and a variety of employment options
- Need to do better at communicating successes
- There's a need for a marketing plan and to ensure a consistent message across communication platforms
- A marketing and communications department will be created and a department head is being recruited.
- A refreshed mermaid logo was introduced as the city's new brand

Mr. Riddick questioned whether a new department head is needed. The manager responded there is a need for centralization of communications functions and a department focused on that will accomplish that.

### **FY2015 PRELIMINARY YEAR END AND MOVING FORWARD**

The City Manager reported:

- Budget gaps are shrinking and resources are growing.
- Norfolk's recent real estate tax increases have been the lowest in the region.
- Norfolk is a highly fiscally stressed city, a primary reason is more than one-third of the city's real estate is tax exempt.
- FY2015 General Fund expenditures were below budget.
- FY2015 revenue came in .2 less than projected; there is a preliminary surplus of \$8.5 million and \$1 million for the school system.
- Of the surplus, it is recommended putting \$1 million in the Risk Management reserve and Economic Development reserve, and \$3.5 million into Capital Projects Debt Reduction and to apply \$3 million on city priorities

Richard Keatley from Mercer Health and Benefits LLC., provided a presentation on changes to the health care plan.

### **STRATEGIES FOR COMMUNITY REVITALIZATION**

Carol Naughton of Purpose Built Communities reported as follows:

- Focus of the presentation is on revitalizing neighborhoods to break the cycle of poverty.
- The community of East Lake Meadows in Atlanta, GA was presented as a model for breaking the cycle of poverty using the following techniques:
  1. People-centered with residents participating in decision making, holding leadership roles and given first choice for relocation and priority for return.

2. Today, crime rates are down dramatically, employment and incomes are up, new housing built and educational attainment improved dramatically.
3. Components include mixed income housing, a cradle-to-college education pipeline and community wellness.

## **NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOL STRATEGIES**

Interim Superintendent Dr. Michael Thornton reported as follows on this item:

- Preliminary SOL results for priority and focus schools for 2014-15 show improvement for nearly all in both reading and mathematics, but continue to fall below the state minimum for accreditation.
- NPS has implemented student centered policies practices and partnerships that include 1) a transformation initiative consisting of themed schools of choice, Dejong & Richter education and facilities planning, school pairing and open campus; 2) a governance leadership team; and, 3) partnerships with Norfolk Education Foundation, United for Children, the E3 School and higher education and community college.

## **NRHA STRATEGIES**

John Kownack, Executive Director, reported as follows:

- The Authority's FY2016 budget of \$83.2 million is \$20.3 million less than FY2003 level and staff has been reduced by 62 full time positions to 282.
- Funding for vouchers has increased from \$18.1 million in FY2010 to \$25.3 million in FY2016.
- HUD has reduced operating subsidy funding and is likely to continue to do so; city funding has also decreased from \$17.3 million in FY2005 to \$4.3 million in FY2016.
- NRHA provides housing assistance to 19,193 residents in 7,840 units, or about 41% of 19,000 households with extremely low income.
- Goals include:
  - Transforming public housing communities by redeveloping 1200 units over the next decade and providing enhanced physical and



social environment and no involuntary displacement of residents outside the community.

- Maintain quality of extremely low income households assisted.
  - Develop collaborative models with human services agencies to ensure current and future residents have capacity to succeed with housing choice.
- Plans include renovation of Young Terrace and Diggs Town, renovation and new construction at Granby Village; renovate and rebuild Oakleaf; and redevelop Tidewater Gardens and Calvert Square.

## **CITYWIDE AFFORDABLE HOUSING STRATEGY**

Deputy City Manager Peter Chapman reported as follows:

- 13 priority areas have been identified for redevelopment and revitalization.
- First project in the pipeline is the St. Paul's Apartments in the St. Paul's Quadrant; the Banks at the Berkley is another.
- The strategy includes redevelopment of non-performing assets and a rehabilitation program to help elderly and low-income homeowners.
- Presently work is underway to develop an affordable housing strategy that will begin with a study.

## **COUNCIL INTERESTS**

Mayor Fraim: Regarding committees, he stated if it is the will of the council, returning to committees is fine with him. Council expressed a preference for the council to set committee agendas and to be working committees rather than always listening to presentations.

It was agreed to reestablish the following committees:

### **Transportation & Infrastructure**

Paul Riddick, Co-Chair

Andy Protogyrou, Co-Chair

Angelia Williams Graves, Member

Mayor Paul Fraim, Member

Finance, Administration & Economic Development

Mayor Paul Fraim, Co-Chair

Barclay Winn, Co-Chair

Mamie Johnson, Member

Andy Protogyrou, Member

Communities & Public Safety

Angelia Williams Graves, Co-Chair

Mamie Johnson, Co-Chair

Dr. Terry Whibley, Member

Tommy Smigiel, Member

Health, Education and Families

Dr. Terry Whibley, Co-Chair

Tommy Smigiel, Co-Chair

Angelia Williams Graves, Member

Paul Riddick, Member

Mr. Protogyrou: Where is the City in reexamining pedestrian accidents to determine if there's a particular intersection or stretch of road more prone to such incidents? Chief Goldsmith responded if it is determined to be an engineering or traffic signal issue, improvements are made. Mr. Protogyrou asked to know if there is a formal process for analyzing this.

Ms. Johnson: Asked for an update on major intersections for road markings, signage, etc. She also suggested conducting speed studies particularly along Tidewater Drive, Virginia Beach Boulevard and Princess Anne Road, in the vicinity of the new Bowling Elementary.

Mr. Riddick: Asked for more police enforcement of speeding violations and asked to look at Campostella Road for traffic calming in the vicinity of the new school.

Ms. Johnson: Asked for a regular update on other major projects.

Ms. Graves: Asked for an update on the residential conversion project of the cigar factory.

Mr. Smigiel: Commented on the amount of trash at the bus stop on Evelyn T. Butts Avenue and elsewhere and the need to get a better handle on it. Also need to replace old, rusted signs and suggested having spot checkers to report those kinds of things. Asked where are the welcome signs at gateways such as the Airport, Northampton Boulevard and Newtown Road, etc., and asked to use the new logo rollout as an opportunity for this.

Mr. Winn: Where a tree is damaged on city property is it part of the police report? Chief Goldsmith answered affirmatively. Also asked for a report on the red light cameras; whether it's been worthwhile and should it be expanded.

Mr. Protogyrou: Encouraged the administration to be more aggressive about recruiting new businesses to relocate to the city and seek assistance from the Governor's Office when appropriated. He recommended focusing on the Port – as one of the City's major assets – as a lever to attract port related businesses. Asked the Manager to develop an incentive package for craft beer breweries and present to the council.

With no further business, Mayor Fraim adjourned the meeting at 5:15 p.m.

## **CITY COUNCIL MEETING**

### **SLOVER LIBRARY NORFOLK, VIRGINIA**

**SEPTEMBER 22, 2015**

President Fraim called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. with the following members present: Ms. Graves, Ms. Johnson, Mr. Protogyrou, Mr. Riddick, Mr. Smigiel, Dr. Whibley, and Mr. Winn.

He thereupon called for the first item of business.

### **LEGISLATIVE AGENDA**

Bryan Pennington, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, reported as follows:

- The General Assembly study committees on flooding will likely allocate \$3 million to the region for flood control study.
- The legislature appears poised to support the Governor's GO agenda which is designed to assist the State's region by working with small and large businesses to generate jobs.
- The City will explore ways to fund additional body cameras for police – the need is for 300 more cameras with a cost of \$250,000.
- Additional funding will be pursued for brownfields remediation.
- Additional priorities to be purchased include protection of local government revenue authority, pre-school initiative, assistance to local police departments, redistricting, bike trail funding and school construction funding.

### **COUNCIL DISCUSSION/INTERESTS**

- Chuck Rigney, Director of Development reported the owner of the cigar factory, on Princess Anne Road is still waiting to close on financing and hasn't responded back to the city in changes to building permits.
- Mayor Fraim asked council member for their projects for the \$3.5 million surplus.



- Mayor Fraim: \$500,000 for implementing poverty commission recommendations
- \$250,000 for additional police cameras.
- Mr. Protogyrou, Dr. Whibley and Mr. Winn: \$300,000 for Denby Park
- Mr. Riddick: NE corner of Wilson and Indian River Road – acquire the property for a bank branch.
- Mr. Winn and Mr. Smigiel: \$200,000 for infrastructure work on Chesapeake Boulevard.
- Dr. Whibley: funding for infrastructure for the Arts District, \$200,000.
- Mr. Smigiel: \$200,000 for median work on Ocean View Avenue along Cottage Line and \$100,000 for Bay Oaks Park.
- Ms. Graves: \$250,000 for Poplar Hall walking trail.
- Ms. Johnson \$300,000 for Five Points.
- Mayor \$150,000 for a small street sweeper for public housing communities and a new landscaping crew; \$250,000 to the school system; \$100,000 for Chelsea; \$400,000 for housing trust fund.

Mr. Smigiel asked the administration to examine the senior citizens relief program and report how many applied for assistance, how many missed the deadline and how many were denied.

### **CLOSED SESSION**

Motion for closed session was approved for purposes which are set out in **Clause 1** of subsection **(A)** of **Section 2.2-3711** of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act, as amended:

- (1) Discussion of performance of the City Manager, City Attorney and City Clerk.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, Protogyrou, Riddick, Smigiel, Whibley, Winn and Fraim.

No: None.

A Resolution certifying a closed meeting of the council of the City of Norfolk in accordance with the provisions of the Virginia Freedom of Information Act.

Yes: Graves, Johnson, Protogyrou, Riddick, Smigiel, Whibley, Winn and Fraim.

No: None.

### **CONFEDERATE MONUMENT**

President Fraim noted people have addressed the council on the matter of the Confederate monument and asked if members had thoughts on it.

Mr. Riddick stated he had not and does not object to the monument but the battle flag is different.

Ms. Johnson stated the monument is part of history and does not see it as a form of hatred. To take something down that's historic would mean all history would be need to be examined.

Ms. Graves stated she agrees, to remove it would be a mistake, that it is a part of history and history cannot be erased.

Mr. Smigiel read from a statement he had provided to the media that expressed the importance of addressing the serious needs of today together and the monument should remain.

Mr. Winn stated he appreciated the comments made and that he believes the monument should remain.

There being no further business, Mayor Fraim adjourned the meeting at 11:55 a.m.